

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 03465 061020Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----061021Z 042936 /20

P R 060925Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7408
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3465

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU
SUBJ: SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY

REF: STATE 102129

1. AFTERNOON OF MAY 5 COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY FOR MUTUAL SECURITY AFFAIRS CALLED ON AMBASSADOR HAMIT BATU, MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, AND EXPLAINED F-4 SITUATION ALONG LINES OUTLINED PARA 7. A THROUGH E REFTE).

2. BATU FELT THAT TURKEY AS A MEMBER OF NATO WAS IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY THAN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WERE ELIMINATED OR CURTAILED. HE WAS INTERESTED IN WHAT KIND OF A NON-LEGISLATIVE MIXED FMS/COMMERCIAL SOLUTION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE BUT HE STRESSED THAT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN RECENT EVENTS WAS THE US ADMINISTRATION HAD APPARENTLY DECIDED NOT TO PRESS CONGRESS TO LIFT THE CEILING TO PERMIT THE PURCHASE OF F-4S UNDER FMS.

3. BATU WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION
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HAD CHANGED ITS POSITION REF F-4 FMS CEILING PROBLEM SUBSEQUENT TO COUNSELOR NIMETZ' APRIL 21 PRESENTATION TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT NIMETZ PRESENTATION WAS STILL ADMINISTRATION POSITION BUT THAT CONGRESS WAS OPPOSED TO ANY LIFTING OF THE CEILING AT THIS TIME.

4. BATU THEN SAID THAT MOST IMPORTANT POINT WAS THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT PRESSING CONGRESS ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AID TO TURKEY. REASONS WHY F-4 ISSUE WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT (PARAS 7.B. AND C. REFTEL) WERE EXPLAINED TO HIM. BATU POINTED OUT THAT GOT HAD NOT FELT THAT NIMETZ PRESENTATION HAD INCLUDED ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE. NOW, ELIMINATION OF ACTION TO LIFT CEILING FOR F-4 PURCHASE UNDER FMS WAS SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR TURKISH GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY DURING CURRENT ELECTION PERIOD.

5. COMMENT: BATU HAS ASSISTED US IN HANDLING A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT LOCAL MATTERS IN RECENT MONTHS. HE GIVES EVERY EVIDENCE OF SINCERELY WANTING A STRONG US-TURKISH SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. ALTHOUGH HE WAS AFFABLE DURING THIS CONVERSATION IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE HAD GRAVE DOUBTS THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION WAS CONVINCED OF THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVIDE US WITH THE OUTLINE OF THE NON-LEGISLATIVE MIXED FMS/COMMERCIAL SOLUTION MENTIONED PARA 7.E. REFTEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MACOMBER

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